GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2180
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2008
READY TO EAT MEALS
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide ready to eat meals to children under the supplementary nutrition programme of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS);

(b) if so,the detailed expenditure involved therein and the steps being taken by the State Governments as well as the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to have a pilot project to assess the efficacy of the hot cooked food;

(d) if so,the details thereof;

(e) whether the proposal has been opposed by some sections in the country; and

(f) if so,the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) & (b) : As per the guidelines contained in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have the flexibility to select the type of food to be provided as supplementary nutrition to Pregnant & Lactating Mothers and children below six years of age. Supplementary Nutrition continues to be provided, as per existing guidelines, and as per directions of the Apex Court, to all Pregnant and Lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age coming to the Anganwadi Centre. There is no centralised procurement of supplementary nutrition. Government of India provides funds to the States/UTs for supplementary nutrition programme as per schematic norms.

(c): No, Sir.

(d), (e) & (f): Doesn't arise.